

Wineberry

Why is it so important to eradicate Wineberry? This fast-spreading, thorny vine was introduced to North America in the 1890s as breeding stock for raspberries. It was found invading natural areas by the 1970s, and it is currently recorded in most states east of the Mississippi River and in Alabama. Due to its invasive nature, it is considered a significant pest of agricultural and natural ecosystems.

Wineberry creates spiny, impenetrable thickets that reduce an area's value for wildlife habitat and recreation. It chokes out and replaces native vegetation, including native edible berry shrubs that our birds and mammals need, and restricts movement. Because Wineberry tolerates a wide variety of soil and light conditions — it can even grow in deep shade — it poses a threat to the native plants that grow in forests, fields, streams, wetland edge habitats, and open woods.

Wineberry grows in long shoots called canes up to six feet long, which can re-root at the tips when they touch the ground. It quickly grows into dense, thorny mats. The plant produces new canes every year. It does not need pollen from another individual to set seed, so it can reproduce more easily than native berries. Once established, wineberry can persist indefinitely.

Wineberry fruit is vibrantly red when ripe, which helps differentiate it from native black raspberries and blackberries. Also, look for the characteristic reddish purplish hairy, prickly stems. Only Wineberry has these.

Fortunately, Wineberry control is more straightforward than for many other invasive plants in Virginia. Wineberry does not have a vigorous underground structure, so hand pulling wineberry or digging with a spading fork can be a successful strategy in small patches, particularly if native species are planted where the ground has been disturbed. Cut the canes back in manageable pieces until you can access the base, then pull up the plant. Return visits will be necessary to remove plants that sprout from any root fragments.

As wineberry is armed with thorns and hairs, minimizing exposed skin during mechanical control is advisable. You'll more information [here](#):

DO NOT compost it!

Wineberry is classified as HIGH invasive risk on the Virginia Invasive Species Plant List from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. More information:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspinfo>

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2014.pdf>

http://nyis.info/invasive_species/wineberry/ <https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wgw/wineberry.pdf>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/naturalcultural/non-native-invasive-id-control-booklet.pdf>



Figure 1: Wineberry canes

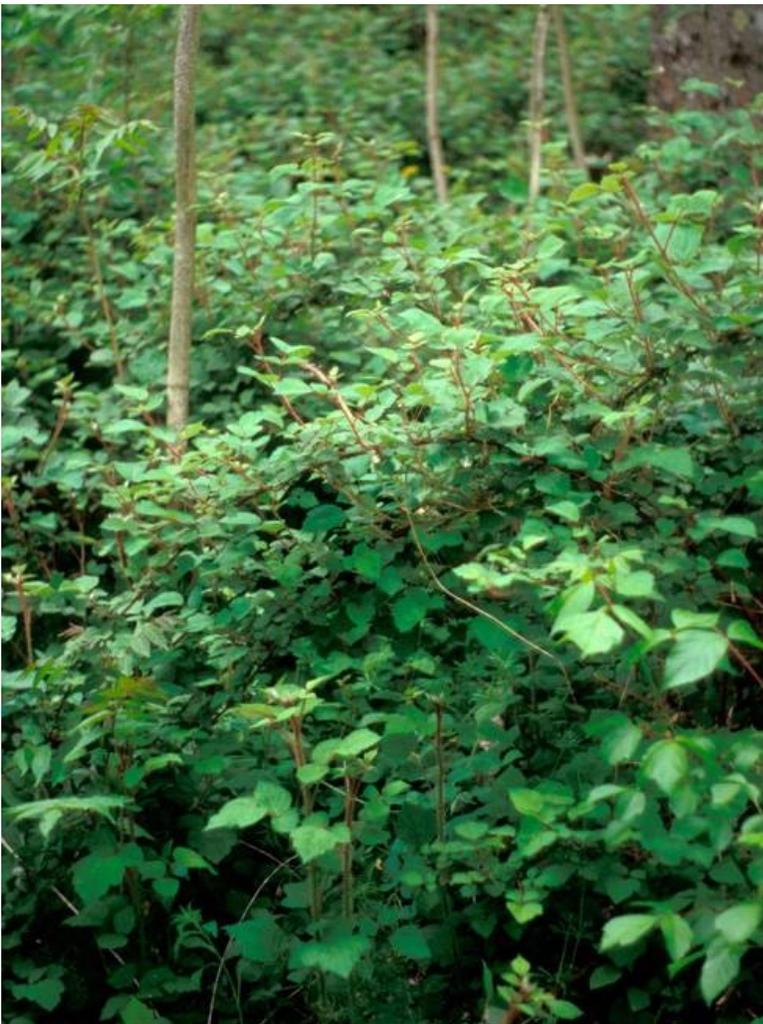


Figure 2: Wineberry forms an impenetrable thicket



Figure 3: Wineberry leaves and stems



Figure 4: Wineberry fruit



Figure 5: Wineberries are vibrant glossy red



Figure 6: Wineberry stems are hairy, prickly and purple